

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-12 and 15-18 have been canceled. Thus, 7-8 and 13-14 are currently pending in the present application, all of which have been amended.

Support for the claim amendments can be found on paragraphs 0029-0034 and Figure 1.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to a non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully traverses such rejection insofar as it might apply to the claims as amended herein.

The preamble of each of amended Claims 13-14 now recites "computer storage medium," and support for such amendment can be found on paragraphs 0044-0045 of the specification. Thus, the § 101 rejection is believed to be overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Ohran* (US 5,835,953). Applicant respectfully traverses such rejection insofar as it might apply to the claims as amended herein.

Amended Claim 7 (and similarly Claim 13) now recites a step of "designating one node within a shared storage system an owner node for metadata relating to all input/output (I/O) relationships of a region of storage" and a step of "designating remaining nodes within said shared storage system client nodes." Since *Ohran* is not related to a shared storage system having multiple shared storage nodes, *Ohran* does not teach or suggest the claimed designating steps.

Because the claimed invention recites novel features that are not taught or suggested by *Ohran*, the § 102 rejection is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

Claims 7-8 and 13-14 are currently pending in the present application. Applicants believe that independent Claims 7 and 13 along with their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance. The remaining prior art cited by the Examiner but not relied upon has been reviewed and is not believed to show or suggest the claimed invention.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any addition fee or extension of time is required for the prosecution of the present application, please charge it against IBM Deposit Account No. 09-0449.

Respectfully submitted,



Antony P. Ng
Registration No. 43,427
DILLON & YUDELL, LLP
8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy., suite 2110
Austin, Texas 78759
(512) 343-6116

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS